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an indefinite time provided a small fee is paid. Outside of these graves are those belonging forever to the families who bury there. These four squares are separated from each other by drainpipes going to two basins, which have the waste pipes by which the overflow goes to the main sewers. In time of epidemic the director of the cemetery buys unslaked lime in order to spread on the graves.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

Yellow fever in Cartagena.

CARTAGENA, *October 12, 1897.*

SIR: I have to inform you that, acting in accordance with instructions contained in paragraph 379 of Consular Regulations, I cabled the Department yesterday by way of Buenaventura: "State Department, Washington: yellow; Smyth; Cartagena, October 11."

In explanation of this cable I have to state as follows:

A week ago a case of yellow fever of the most pronounced type appeared in a house inhabited by a number of Turks and Syrians in this city. The case proved fatal and was followed by a second case in the same house, which was likewise fatal. The disease did not appear anywhere else in the city, and I therefore did not consider it "epidemic," awaiting further developments before so reporting it.

On Sunday, October 10, I visited the governor of the department in order to learn if any precautionary measure would be taken against the spread of the disease, etc. He informed me that the disease had already broken out among the troops quartered in the city, and that he was putting in operation extraordinary measures to arrest its further development. He reported 4 cases among the soldiers. Scarcely an hour after my visit to the governor I was called upon by the British consul here to go with him to take charge of the effects of a British subject of whose death he had just heard. Complying with his request, I found that the deceased had died only two hours before our arrival, that he had had no medical attendance whatever, and that the authorities were apparently ignorant of the case. I therefore questioned the widow of the deceased very closely as to the cause of death, symptoms of the disease, etc. Her answers aroused my suspicions and I insisted that a medical examination should be made before burial. We therefore notified the authorities of the death and our suspicions regarding it and returned to the house of the deceased with Dr. M. V. Montenegro, the physician to whom the governor had referred me as being the president of the board of health, and who has the reputation of having had the largest experience in the treatment of yellow fever, not only in Cartagena, but probably in Colombia. Dr. Montenegro examined the body of the deceased and declared that it was a case of yellow fever of the most pronounced type. The house was thereupon cleared of people, fumigated, and the body at once interred.

With the occurrence of the last-mentioned case I found that the disease had broken out almost simultaneously in three different localities in the city, as above described, and the necessity for the cable, required by paragraph 379, appeared imperative. Before sending it, however, I consulted with Dr. Goodman, the health officer sent by the Alabama

State board of health, referred to in my dispatch No. 66, and I found that he concurred with me in considering the disease epidemic. I have inclosed a letter from Dr. Goodman on the subject.

At the present writing the disease appears to be confined to the army, no other cases, to my knowledge, having appeared among civilians. The police, under instructions from the governor, are trying in every way to improve the sanitary condition of the city (a condition that is certainly very bad), clearing the streets, inspecting houses of foreigners, etc. The army also has been removed to two forts outside the walls of the city as a quarantine measure.

In connection with my duties in the matter, I find that it is next to impossible to obtain reliable statistics in regard to the spread of the disease—a fact that should be borne in mind by United States port officials in examining my bills of health.

Every effort is made, of course, by merchants, agents, and others interested, to deny the existence of the disease, or at all events to deny its epidemic character. The board of health also, if any exists, is in an unorganized condition, and the other authorities more or less affected by the feeling among the merchants. I am, therefore, practically compelled to depend on various physicians for information.

So far the disease has appeared exclusively among the foreign population and the troops, most of whom are from the interior. The governor estimates the number of foreigners in Cartagena at about 500.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CLIFFORD SMYTH,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

CARTAGENA, REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, *October 11, 1897.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your question as to what, in my opinion, was the cause of the present appearance of yellow fever in Cartagena, I must say that primarily and largely it is due to the lack of quarantine regulations and restrictions between this city and ports known to be infected.

You know as well as I do, if not better, from your longer residence here, that passengers, not to mention merchandise, from Colon and Panama have been granted access without let or hindrance all summer, when both places were regarded as infected. Surely the authorities of Colombia should remedy this, both for the safety of their people and for the furtherance of their commercial relations with other countries.

Yours, truly,

D. W. GOODMAN, M. D.

Mr. C. SMYTH,
United States Consul, Cartagena.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CANADA—*Hamilton*.—Month of October, 1897. Estimated population, 50,000. Total deaths, 46, including 2 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CUBA—*Guantanamo*.—Month of September, 1897. Estimated population not reported. Total deaths, 128, including 1 from yellow fever.

Manzanillo.—Two weeks ended October 22, 1897. Estimated population, 20,000. Total deaths, 97, including 3 from yellow fever and 1 from whooping cough.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended October 23